

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

Aims, purposes and objectives of the PCC

St John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building and grounds and the church hall. St John's is part of the Benefice of Stansted, Birchanger and Farnham and our Priest in Charge also has responsibility for the Parish of Takeley with Little Canfield.

St John's is entitled to three representatives to vote at Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church

St John's has strong links with St Mary's Church of England Primary School, and Priest in Charge Rev'd Colin Fairweather, Rev'd Helen Flack and PCC member John Elliott sit on the board of Governors.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve those groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship aim to put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

Report on PCC activities during 2024

Prayer/Worship/Pastoral Care

St John's 9.30 service is a sung Eucharist with robed choir. The service is also available on line through the Facebook platform. A team of sidespeople are on hand to guide and welcome our congregation each week. Members of the congregation lead intercessions and read the first lesson. Interceders are encouraged to pray for leaders of our church school St Mary's.

Rev'd Helen implemented a "Communications Group" which led to the formation in November 2024 of a new all-age form of worship on the first Sunday of each month "Together on Sunday". PCC are grateful to members of our congregation who have been instrumental in the running of this service, which involves craft activities for children. Special thanks are due to Pat Crosby, Katy Dockerill and Elaine Wright.

The Ministry Team comprises the Priest-in-Charge, Associate Priest and Licensed Lay Ministers Hugh Mascetti and Jo Pratt. Both Rev'd Colin and Rev'd Helen are in attendance at St John's "Together on Sunday" service. When there are five Sundays in the month, a "Five Churches" service is often held on the last Sunday - rotating the venue each time. A revised service rota pattern is to be introduced in 2025.

Rev'd Helen's Tuesday lunch time "Christian Meditation" has been well attended in 2024 with between 8 and 13 people attending each week.

Rev'd Helen oversees baptisms at St John's, typically meeting families in the church after a Sunday service. The act of baptism may be performed by either Rev Helen or Rev Colin, either during the 9.30 a.m. service or at 3 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month.

Around five people regularly attend Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. on Zoom five days a week.

Kathy West, Pastoral Assistant, liaises with the clergy to visit members of our parish who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The clergy are available to visit church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. The ministry team take monthly services at local Care Homes - Broome End, Hargrave House and Mountfitchet House.

The Tots service on Tuesday mornings for pre-school children and their parents/carers continues to be well attended and has been welcoming families to St John's for over sixteen years. Many thanks to leader Margaret Hill, and regular volunteers June Cannon, Ann Lee and Mo Thwaites

On 6th June, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day a service was held outside St John's when a plaque was presented to the village by the people of Rungis, with whom Stansted is twinned.

In November our regular All Souls Service was held to which recently bereaved villagers were invited.

The Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial was as always very well attended.

A carol service was held in St John's on 21st December.

For the second year, a "Bethlehem Mass" was held at 9.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. This was well attended and it seems the majority of our congregation prefer it to the traditional midnight mass.

Church Building/Grounds

There are several works outstanding which were detailed in the Quinquennial report. Although the building is not in a bad state, the roof still needs attention.

There is still concern about the parking restriction regulations on St John's Road in front of our church. Discussions with St John's Residents Association are ongoing.

The removal of a large tree root at the entrance to the carpark is in hand, as is the removal of the lime trees. Relevant permission is being sought.

The metal fence between the church's boundary and the Peter Kirk site is subject of an ongoing discussion with Essex County Council.

The PCC is aware of several small broken panes of glass in the church. This is being dealt with.

The floor of the chancel has still to be made good after the removal of the choir stalls. Finding a contractor is proving difficult.

The repair of broken chairs continued during 2024.

There are plans to install glass doors at the main entrance to the church. Discussions are at an early stage

A new shed, paid for by the Craft Ladies, was installed early in 2024.

There is still concern about the cost of heating the church and every effort is being made to reduce the cost, whilst keeping the church warm.

Following the installation of a safety rail in the gallery, it has now been cleared and is available for use.

Four decorative flower stands (which were originally light fittings of the church) had fallen into disrepair. These have now been repaired by a blacksmith.

A "deep clean" of the church was undertaken by Hague Domestic Cleaning in July 2024. Members of the congregation donated money towards this.

The two dedicated flower arrangers (Jean Robinson and Susan Bone) are still hoping other members of the congregation would join them.

Thanks to those (few) members of our congregation who meet several times a year to clean, and polish the brasses and the silverware. Again more volunteers needed.

Church Administration

Alison Garrard has been in post both as Parish Secretary and also as St John's Hall Booking Secretary, for the whole of 2024. PCC are very grateful to her for her efficiency in the two roles.

St John's changed its website provider to *Squarespace*. This has proved successful and it is now easier to amend and input details.

St John's now has a new logo.

The Church weekly bulletin is sent by email to those requesting it.

Mission/Outreach/Fundraising

A third "Being With" course was held during 2024 aimed at new and established Christians. Among the participants were several confirmands, who went on to be confirmed by Bishop Roger in a service at Good Easter Church in July.

Stella Skingle organises the purchase of Bible Reading Fellowship notes which are used in private worship by members of our congregation.

The St John's choir continues to play a key role in our worship, thanks to the dedication of choir members under Anne Brooks' leadership. The choir also meets on alternate Saturday mornings for choir practice.

Some members of the congregation meet at the "Touchpoint" hub on Thursday mornings for tea/coffee/lunch and fellowship.

The Craft Ladies (led by Ann Conroy and June Winter) continue to play an important role in fundraising for the church, together with Susan Bone's candle sales.

The Christmas Market was not held in 2024. A Christmas Quiz was held instead which was successful in terms of fellowship and fundraising.

Ecumenical Relationships

The church is a member of Churches Together in Stansted (CTS) and representatives attend the Forum meetings which are held three times a year. CTS activities include Harvest Supper, support for Teams4u Christmas shoebox appeal and the Celebration of Christmas Service, which in 2024 was held on Forest Hall estate on land next to St Mary's School. Music was supplied by the Bishop's Stortford Band.

Safeguarding

No Safeguarding incidents were reported in the year 2024. An audit of St John's safeguarding practices was undertaken by the Parish Safeguarding Officer and can be found on the church website. PCC members are undertaking online safeguarding courses as required by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

The PCC have adopted and follow the Parish Safeguarding Policy and the Parish Safeguarding Handbook (2019) recommended by the Diocese. This is informed by the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and fully compliant with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. St John's recruitment processes for staff and volunteers are consistent with Diocesan guidance. The PCC, Priest in Charge, and the Parish Safeguarding Officer have worked hard to ensure that St John's Church is safer through regard for policy, safer recruitment and training. The expectation is that all volunteers and staff members are safely recruited, have up to date safeguarding training and the correct level of DBS as required. PCC are grateful to Liz Lister for her work as Parish Safeguarding Officer during 2024.

PCC Structure, governance and management

The PCC has a full meeting in alternate months throughout the year, and met six times in 2024 with an attendance of 90%.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. St John's is currently entitled to nine elected members. At St John's the membership of the PCC consists of the clergy, churchwardens, licensed pastoral assistant, Deanery Synod members and those elected by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All who attend our services are encouraged to commit to church membership by registering on the electoral roll; in so doing they become eligible to stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

PCC members are required to seek re-election every three years and stand down for a period of at least one year after six years' service.

PCC minutes are available and the latest one can be found on the blue notice board at the back of St John's.

Kathryn West

Secretary to St John's PCC

Administrative Information

Priest-in-Charge : Rev'd Dr. Colin Fairweather
Associate Priest : Rev'd Helen Flack
Pastoral Assistant : Kathryn West
Church Secretary/Hall Bookings Administrator : Alison Garrard
Organist/Director of Music : Anne Brooks

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are :

Ex Officio members

Incumbent : Rev'd Dr. Colin Fairweather
Associate Priest : Rev'd Helen Flack
Churchwardens : Alastair Bone, Peter Jones
Pastoral Assistant : Kathryn West

Elected Deanery Synod Representatives

Michael Howes
Peter Jones

Elected members

Stuart Ayres (until APCM 2024)
June Cannon
Ann Conroy
Alan Corbishley
Katy Dockerill
John Elliott
Liz Lister
Cheryl McGreal (until APCM 2024)

Parish Safeguarding Officer is Liz Lister
Treasurer is Alan Corbishley
Electoral Roll Officer is Ann Conroy
Secretary is Kathryn West

Standing Committee The Standing Committee comprises the Clergy, Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer. This committee is required by law and has the power to transact the business of the PCC subject to the direction of the PCC.

PCC Status The Parochial Church Council of Stansted is registered with the Charities Commission, registration number 1129495 with the working title of St John's Church.

St John's Church, Stansted Mountfitchet, Treasurer's Report 2024 Accounts

In presenting these accounts I have a few points to make for a better understanding of the figures before you.

1. **Assets and Liabilities** as at 31st December 2024 (The first two pages). The net figure, £717,121 shows an increase on last year due to upward movement in the value of the CCLA Investment Fund and an increase in the rates of interest paid on our Deposit and Premium Accounts during 2024. The CCLA Investment Fund is regarded as a long-term investment and, whilst the value goes up and down with the market, the long-term trend has always been upwards. We rely on the dividends from the Investment Fund as a major source of our income – these have continued to increase year on year.
2. The Church Hall is shown in the accounts at build cost as part of the Church's Assets. In reality, this amount of £73,985 could be discounted as it is not realizable.
3. The Connect 120 Fund monies are held as agency funds. They are not included in St John's total financial position – being shown as both an Asset and a Liability - as the Fund is for projects across all five churches for which Colin has responsibility.
4. **The Revenue accounts – Church (General) Account** (the third and fourth pages); **Hall account** (fifth page) - which follow are Income and Expenditure Accounts, NOT Profit and Loss Accounts. As such they are simply a record of all incoming funds and all outgoing costs during the year.
5. **Church Account.** As a result of 4 (above), comparisons with previous years are not easy, in fact could lead one to a completely wrong conclusion. For example, there was no Gift Aid income in 2023 but effectively two years Gift Aid income in these 2024 accounts. I have made an adjustment to the figures (indicated by an asterisk) to show the effect of splitting this across the two years.
6. We have continued the process of repairing the chairs in church. We have carried out a considerable amount of work on the church grounds. Both these are ongoing.
7. You will also see asterisked an item of £1000, a temporary loan made to Stansted Trust Funds while they undertake Bank Account changes. Surplus figure adjusted accordingly.
8. The effect of these changes (5 and 7 above) means that the surpluses for each year are 2023 £10,250 and for 2024 £6,797. On the face of it, this may seem satisfactory but further examination of the figures indicates that while planned committed giving plus plate collections is static at around £44,000, costs during 2024 have increased by over £8,000. By my calculations, this would mean that, without an increase in planned and plate giving, we may be facing a revenue deficit in this current year 2025.
9. **St John's Hall Account.** This was of great concern last year but, with a higher percentage usage, and also a lettings rate increase from 1st April 2024, the Hall is now breaking even on its Revenue Account. Thanks are due to Alison in the Church Office and Jean, Katy and Malcolm, the Hall Committee members.

I wish to place on record my thanks to Ann Lee, who balances the weekly income with the services record book and pays it into the bank, and Philip Everett, our former Treasurer, for his continuing help with advice when needed. I am also grateful to Edmund Wilkinson for again examining our accounts and confirming their correctness.

Overall, I can assure everyone that St John's is in a sound financial state at present. However, to avoid future drawing on Investments, regular giving must continue to increase, as I indicate in 8 above, to keep pace with increases in inflation and costs.

Alan Corbishley, 6th February 2025.

Stansted Mountfitchet PCC
Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)
As at: 31 December 2024

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets - Investments						
6440 : CCLA 001S (Property & Agneta May Church)	41,419.64	445,151.08	—	9,441.02	496,011.74	484,912.85
6442 : CCLA 002S (Holland)	—	—	—	44,497.09	44,497.09	43,501.41
Total	41,419.64	445,151.08	—	53,938.11	540,508.83	528,414.26
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
6430 : Church Hall	—	73,985.00	—	—	73,985.00	73,985.00
6432 : Land at St Mary's	—	1.00	—	—	1.00	1.00
Total	—	73,986.00	—	—	73,986.00	73,986.00
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
6501 : Barclays Main account 9922	18,106.21	(2,999.53)	4,705.38	64.18	19,876.24	15,941.20
6502 : Barclays No 2 account 8714	4,891.31	1,607.30	—	—	6,498.61	10,169.32
6510 : CCLA deposit account 8001D	50,360.97	4,585.45	—	—	54,946.42	52,176.96
6511 : CCLA deposit 1752D (RE Fund)	—	—	—	22,522.70	22,522.70	21,387.49
Total	73,358.49	3,193.22	4,705.38	22,586.88	103,843.97	99,674.97
Current assets - Investments						
6512 : Connect 120 CCLA Investment Account	—	—	32,235.12	—	32,235.12	31,513.82
Total	—	—	32,235.12	—	32,235.12	31,513.82
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
6699 : Agency collections	—	—	33,452.88	—	33,452.88	32,731.58
Total	—	—	33,452.88	—	33,452.88	32,731.58
Net total assets	114,778.13	522,330.30	3,487.62	76,524.99	717,121.04	700,857.47
Represented by						
Unrestricted - General	114,778.13	—	—	—	114,778.13	113,303.66
Designated - AgnetaMChL	—	117,018.34	—	—	117,018.34	119,586.98
Designated - Benefice	—	—	—	—	—	4,668.92
Designated - CraftsSale	—	249.28	—	—	249.28	1,389.28
Designated - Fabric	—	8,207.73	—	—	8,207.73	8,207.73
Designated - FlagReplmt	—	330.00	—	—	330.00	330.00

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Designated - Hall	—	478.21	—	—	478.21	(13,829.39)
Designated - Property	—	396,046.74	—	—	396,046.74	385,476.62
Restricted - Cnect120	—	—	2,221.50	—	2,221.50	3,616.30
Restricted - HallRestor	—	—	—	—	—	2,447.15
Restricted - Livesey	—	—	1,266.12	—	1,266.12	1,266.12
Endowment - Holland	—	—	—	44,497.09	44,497.09	43,501.41
Endowment - RETRust	—	—	—	22,522.70	22,522.70	21,387.49
Endowment - Roof	—	—	—	9,505.20	9,505.20	9,505.20
Total	114,778.13	522,330.30	3,487.62	76,524.99	717,121.04	700,857.47

Stansted Mountfitchet PCC
Income / expenditure comparative figures
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2024

Description	01/01/2023-31/12/2023	01/01/2024-31/12/2024	Fund	Fund type
Income				
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	2,208.00	2,573.00	General	Unrestricted
0111 - Envelopes GASDS	—	20.00	General	Unrestricted
0201 - Standing Orders, Gift aided	35,041.00	35,703.00	General	Unrestricted
0202 - Standing Orders, not gift aided	—	180.00	General	Unrestricted
0301 - Loose plate collections	5,719.57	5,281.41	General	Unrestricted
0302 - Loose cash other than plate...	221.41	—	General	Unrestricted
0303 - Miscellaneous income	—	20.00	General	Unrestricted
0304 - Giving Machine	(17.07)	(29.80)	General	Unrestricted
0306 - St John's Tots	1,191.05	1,062.60	General	Unrestricted
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	500.00	1,196.00	General	Unrestricted
0550 - Donations appeals etc	300.00	10,623.55	General	Unrestricted
0601 - Gift Aid Tax recovered	10,623.95	21,247.90 *	General	Unrestricted
0701 - Legacies	1,005.37	135.64	General	Unrestricted
0904 - Birchanger PCC Contribution	400.00	—	General	Unrestricted
0905 - Farnham PCC Contribution	750.00	—	General	Unrestricted
0906 - Commonwealth War Graves	6.00	—	General	Unrestricted
0907 - 300 Club	2,048.00	2,442.00	General	Unrestricted
0910 - Fundraising events	—	1,358.00	General	Unrestricted
0911 - Christmas Market	2,299.05	—	General	Unrestricted
1001 - Dividends CCLA Investment	13,254.76	10,095.52	General	Unrestricted
1002 - Dividends Holland trust	1,189.09	1,207.56	General	Unrestricted
1004 - Interest CCLA Deposit...	—	2,769.46	General	Unrestricted
1006 - Dividends Agneta Church	—	3,365.16	General	Unrestricted
1020 - Interest Bank Premium...	1,886.84	349.18	General	Unrestricted
1101 - Fees for weddings and...	721.00	4,179.01	General	Unrestricted
1221 - Traidcraft	260.00	—	General	Unrestricted
1222 - Crafts	—	700.00	General	Unrestricted
1231 - Church lettings income	600.00	640.00	General	Unrestricted
Totals	69,584.07	94,495.64		
	80,208.02	83,871.69		
Expenditure				
1703 - Donations	100.00	—	General	Unrestricted
1710 - Costs of applying for grants	—	800.00	General	Unrestricted
1720 - Costs of stewardship...	77.42	—	General	Unrestricted
1850 - Home mission	(990.00)	—	General	Unrestricted
1901 - Parish Share	41,271.12	44,415.36	General	Unrestricted
2001 - Pastoral Asst expenses	—	182.60	General	Unrestricted
2050 - Parish Secretary's Salary	5,704.28	2,230.50	General	Unrestricted
2101 - Vicar's Expenses	1,040.02	743.99	General	Unrestricted
2102 - Assoc Priest's expenses	16.65	473.89	General	Unrestricted
2103 - Visiting Clergy expenses	18.00	—	General	Unrestricted
2150 - Vicar's telephone and internet	533.69	343.07	General	Unrestricted
2210 - St John's tots	13.49	—	General	Unrestricted
2301 - Church running - insurance	4,574.68	5,389.80	General	Unrestricted
2310 - Parish Office phone - internet	433.15	305.65	General	Unrestricted
2311 - Parish Office Requisites	39.41	520.24	General	Unrestricted
2312 - Parish office gas	114.83	—	General	Unrestricted
2313 - Parish Office rent	—	720.00	General	Unrestricted
2314 - Parish Office maintenance	1,080.67	470.02	General	Unrestricted

Description	01/01/2023-31/12/2023	01/01/2024-31/12/2024	Fund	Fund type
2321 - Organ repairs and servicing	—	437.19	General	Unrestricted
2330 - Church maintenance	1,437.88	2,241.56	General	Unrestricted
2331 - Church Cleaning	200.20	300.00	General	Unrestricted
2334 - Church alarm servicing and...	78.00	—	General	Unrestricted
2340 - Upkeep of services	782.99	1,583.04	General	Unrestricted
2341 - Church Choir and Junior Choir	20.95	—	General	Unrestricted
2342 - Organist's expenses	1,800.00	—	General	Unrestricted
2343 - CCLI Music Copyright	—	327.50	General	Unrestricted
2345 - Music and RSCM Subscription	447.42	351.00	General	Unrestricted
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	—	3,721.65	General	Unrestricted
2360 - Administration	178.95	352.56	General	Unrestricted
2361 - Unassigned	10.20	60.00	General	Unrestricted
2381 - Fees paid to Stansted PCC	(77.00)	—	General	Unrestricted
2383 - Fees paid to Farnham PCC	—	982.00	General	Unrestricted
2384 - Fees to Organist	—	1,850.00	General	Unrestricted
2386 - Fees to Verger	95.00	—	General	Unrestricted
2387 - Unassigned Category	—	1,000.00	General	Unrestricted
2401 - Church electricity	670.38	989.88	General	Unrestricted
2410 - Church gas	10,177.74	6,672.66	General	Unrestricted
2420 - Church water	107.77	152.91	General	Unrestricted
2601 - Governance costs...	—	49.00	General	Unrestricted
Totals	69,957.89	78,074.18		

Surplus.

£10,250.13
2023.

£6,797.51
2024.

Stansted Mountfitchet PCC
Income / expenditure comparative figures
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2024

Description	01/01/2023-31/12/2023	01/01/2024-31/12/2024	Fund	Fund type
Income				
1230 - Church hall lettings income	10,506.75	16,537.95	Hall	Designated
1240 - Church hall fund raising...	—	150.00	Hall	Designated
Totals	10,506.75	16,687.95		
Expenditure				
2520 - Hall Cleaning materials	—	438.55	Hall	Designated
2530 - Hall Electricity	1,783.34	3,894.51	Hall	Designated
2540 - Hall Gas	4,779.91	3,640.93	Hall	Designated
2550 - Hall Insurance	1,391.28	1,146.94	Hall	Designated
2560 - Hall Maintenance	1,399.38	897.36	Hall	Designated
2561 - Hall Cleaner	4,781.38	3,488.22	Hall	Designated
2562 - Hall Booking Secretary	1,266.00	2,230.50	Hall	Designated
2570 - Hall Telephone and Internet	207.82	249.31	Hall	Designated
2580 - Hall Water	620.17	455.85	Hall	Designated
2591 - Hall Waste removal	200.20	206.25	Hall	Designated
2592 - Hall Associations'...	372.00	280.40	Hall	Designated
Totals	16,801.48	16,928.82		

ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH, STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
Independent Examiner's Report to the members of the Parochial Church
Council

I report on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the Parochial Church Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

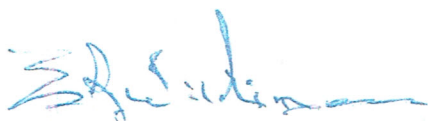
I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Edmund R Wilkinson ACIB

24, Brewery Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet

6th February 2025.